

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (currently amended) A device for implanting in the vasculature or cardiovascular system for treating a disease, comprising:

- a) a biodegradable matrix material capable of dissolving upon contact with blood,
- b) one or more particles incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material, and,
- c) at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles and capable of being released into the blood stream as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves,

said one or more particles comprising iron oxide (Fe₃O₄), titanium, titanium alloy, titaniumoxide (TiO₂), magnesium oxide, palladium oxide, palladiumcobalt, bioceramic, bioglass, resin, cement, hydroxyapatite, calcium sulfate, aluminum oxide, tricalcium phosphate, calcium phosphate salt, carbon, cobalt-based alloy, titanium-based alloy, zirconium oxide, zirconia, aluminum-based alloy, vanadium-based alloy, molybdenum-based alloy, nickel-based alloy, iron-based alloy, zinc-based alloy, zinc phosphate, zinc polycarboxylate, epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(akylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyvalerate, poly(ethylene oxide), poly ortho ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, or any combination thereof, and

said device having a ring-like structure, and ~~constructed to degrade~~ capable of degrading gradually and until complete degradation ~~completely~~ as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves.

2. (cancelled).
3. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a polymeric material, a metallic material, or a combination thereof.
4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising an epoxy, polyester, acrylic, nylon, silicone, polyanhydride, polyurethane, polylactide poly(L-lactide), poly(D-lactidepoly), copolymer derived therefrom polylactide poly(L-lactide) or poly(D-lactidepoly), polycarbonate, poly(tetrafluoroethylene) (PTFE), polycaprolactone, polyethylene oxide, polyethylene glycol, poly(vinyl chloride), polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polypropylene oxide, poly(alkylene)glycol, polyoxyethylene, sebacic acid, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), polymethyl methacrylate, 1,3-bis(carboxyphenoxy)propane, phosphatidylcholine, triglyceride, polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), polyhydroxyvalerate (PHV), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO), poly ortho ester, poly (amino acid), polycynoacrylate, polyphosphazene, polysulfone, polyamine, poly (amido amine), siloxane-based elastomer, siloxane-based elastomer comprising 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl groups, lipid, isopropyl styrene, flexible fluoropolymer, vinyl pyrrolidone, cellulose acetate dibutyrate, silicone rubber, hydroxapatite, fibrin, graphite, ~~manganese-lithium alloy comprising from about 0.5 wt % to about 20 wt % of lithium,~~ or any combination thereof.
5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a naturally occurring protein, a synthetic protein, ~~elastin, collagen, albumin, keratin, fibronectin, silk, silk fibroin, actin, myosin, fibrinogen, thrombin, aprotinin, antithrombin III,~~ a genetically engineered protein polymer consisting of fibronectin-like blocks, or any combination thereof.

6. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising a shape-memory effect material.
7. (cancelled).
8. (cancelled).
9. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said at least one drug comprising a resin, fibrate, niacin, statin, paclitaxel, adenosine, spironolactone, alteplase, amlodipine, amiodarone, anistreplase, aspirin, atenolol, atropine, abciximab, captopril, carvedilol, celecoxib, chlorothiazide, cholestyramine, clofibrate, clopidrogel, digoxin, dipyridamole, disopyramide, dobutamine, dofetilide, dopamine, enalapril, epinephrine, felodipine, flecainide, furosemide, losartan, lovastatin, metoprolol, minoxidil, nifedipine, nimodipine, pravastatin, procainamide, popranolol, protamine, simvastatin, sotalol, streptokinase, ticlodipine, urokinase, verapamil, warfarin, or any combination thereof.
10. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said at least one drug comprising an anti-inflammatory agent.
11. (cancelled).
12. (cancelled).
13. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising a drug releasing agent.
14. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said biodegradable matrix material comprising at least one depot for storing the at least one drug, wherein the at least one depot open as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves or degrades.
15. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising Zyn-Linkers.
16. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, comprising a binder.

17. (previously amended) A device according to claim 16, said binder comprising a synthetic polymer, dextran, any sugar based substance, starch, chitosan, agarose, albumin, or any combination thereof.
18. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said one or more particles having a diameter in the range from about 40 nanometers to about 1 micrometer.
19. (currently amended) A device ~~according to claim 1, for implanting in the vasculature or cardiovascular~~ for treating a disease, comprising:
a) a biodegradable matrix material capable of dissolving upon contact with blood,
b) one or more particles incorporated into the biodegradable matrix material, and
c) at least one drug coated onto or incorporated into the one or more particles and
capable of being released into the blood stream as the biodegradable matrix
material dissolves,
said one or more particles being capable of changing the contrast in a radiological imaging system, and
said device having a ring-like structure, and constructed to degrade gradually until
complete degradation as the biodegradable matrix material dissolves.
20. (currently amended) A device according to claim 19, said one or more particles comprising ~~iron oxide iron oxide~~ (Fe₃O₄), titanium, ~~titanium alloy titanium alloys,~~ titaniumoxide (TiO₂), ~~manganese oxide,~~ magnesiumoxide, palladiumoxide, palladiumcobalt, ⁹⁰Y, ¹³³Xe, ^{81m}Kr, ¹¹¹In, ^{133m}In, ²⁰¹Th, or any combination thereof.
21. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said device being attached to a vessel wall via mechanical expansion and clamping.
22. (previously amended) A device according to claim 1, said device being attached to a vessel wall via glue.
23. (cancelled).
24. (cancelled).
25. (cancelled).

26. (cancelled).
27. (cancelled).
28. (cancelled).
29. (cancelled).
30. (cancelled).